

## House Resolution 1359

By: Representatives Gordon of the 162<sup>nd</sup>, Bryant of the 160<sup>th</sup>, Stephens of the 161<sup>st</sup>, Stephens of the 164<sup>th</sup>, Williams of the 165<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on Video Gambling Machines; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, the economic downturn is having a critical impact on states around this nation  
3 as revenues have greatly declined due to decreased individual spending, the housing  
4 meltdown, and high unemployment; and

5 WHEREAS, many Georgians are having difficulty making ends meet in these exceptionally  
6 historic and challenging times; and

7 WHEREAS, state officials have been forced to make difficult decisions in order to craft a  
8 constitutionally mandated balanced budget, cutting programs, slashing budgets of state  
9 agencies, and requiring furloughs of state employees and teachers; and

10 WHEREAS, from 1991 to 1999, the Georgia General Assembly passed legislation that  
11 amended the state gambling statute, Code Section 16-12-35, to effectively create a state  
12 exemption for video gambling machines; and

13 WHEREAS, in 2002, a law was passed that banned video gambling machines from being  
14 used in Georgia; and

15 WHEREAS, reinstating the policy of the 1990's and allowing video gambling machines in  
16 Georgia could generate millions of dollars for this state through taxation of the industry; and

17 WHEREAS, with state tax collections continuing to fall, it is vital to the future of this state  
18 and her residents to find new streams of revenue; and

19 WHEREAS, revenues from the reinstatement of video gambling in Georgia could  
20 specifically be used to help provide Georgians with health care and be set aside for  
21 education, eliminating the need for teachers to take furlough days; and

22 WHEREAS, in these economic times, it is prudent to consider and study all possible sources  
23 of revenue for this state, including video gambling machines, a revenue generating method  
24 that was successful until 2002.

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
26 there is created the House Study Committee on Video Gambling Machines to be composed  
27 of five members of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the  
28 House of Representatives. The Speaker shall designate a member of the committee as  
29 chairperson of the committee. The chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the above  
31 issues and recommend any actions or legislation that the committee deems necessary or  
32 appropriate. The committee may conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as  
33 it may deem necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers,  
34 perform its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The  
35 members of the committee shall receive the allowances authorized for legislative members  
36 of interim legislative committees but shall receive the same for not more than five days  
37 unless additional days are authorized. The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this  
38 resolution shall come from the funds appropriated to the House of Representatives. In the  
39 event that the committee makes a report of its findings and recommendations with  
40 suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, such report shall be made on or before December  
41 31, 2010. The committee shall stand abolished on December 31, 2010.